School (NOS) and the establishment of State Open Schools in some of the States during the last few years are indicative of the growing popularity of Open Schooling in India.

(b) and (c) During the IX Plan Period, the NOs plans to provide professional and technical support to States in establishing and developing State Open Schools.

Criteria for Opening New Universities

1939. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Universities set up in the country duriang 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the criteria on the basis of which representations for opening new universities are acted upon; and

(c) whether the need for adequate inter-regional balance in the sphere of higher education is kept in mind at the time of granting sanctions to new universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) According to the avilable information, 2 new Unviersities were set up during 1995-96 and 6 in 1996-97.

(b) and (c) Central Universities are set up by Acts of Parliament and State Universities by Acts of State Legislatures. UGC has framed guidelines for establishment of new Unviersities which though not specifically providing for maintenance of inter-regional balance, however, envisage a detailed survey of the avilability of facilities for Higher Education within the proposed jurisdiction of the university concerned.

Relaxation in Cut-Off Marks

1940. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for relaxation in percentage of marks/cut-off marks set for admission to different streams in Kandriya Vidyalayas for wards of employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. For admission in Science and Commerce streams in Kendriya Vidyalayas the cut off marks is the same for all students i.e. 50% and 45% in aggregate respectively, in order to maintain academic standards.

Appointment of Vice Chancellor of Jamia Millia

1941. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the appointment of a retired Army General as Vice Chancellor of Jamia Millia by neglecting the preservation of democratic and academic values in higher education and its law disturbing implication on the running of University; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The President of India, as Visitor of Jamia Millia Islamia, has appointed the Vice Chancellor of the University in accordance with the provisions of the Act and